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Playing with kids' safety?

► Safety on indoor PlayPlaces is top priority: McDonald's ► Mesh netting in playground 'fixed' with duct tape, cardboard: Mother



SVJETLANA
MLINAREVIC
WINNIPEG@METRONews.CA

A Winnipeg mother of three says an alleged incident at a local McDonald's last week has her questioning the safety of private playgrounds.

Kimberly Brenton said she took her kids to the McDonald's at 994 Keewatin St. for lunch and a romp in the indoor playground Dec. 6.

While there, Kimberley's daughter Marguerita, 3, fell through netting Brenton said had been "repaired" with duct tape and cardboard.

"I only saw her legs. I couldn't see her head," said Kimberly. "I was in hysterics."

While Kimberly ran to get help from staff, a male customer in the room managed to navigate his way through the playground

and get to the girl.

The girl was left scared and upset, with red marks under her arms from where the netting caught, said Kimberly. Images provided by Kimberly show frayed and cut netting with pieces of duct tape on them.

"I screamed for help twice and no one came. Nobody came. Not one person," she said. "I went to talk to the staff and asked them, 'Did you hear me screaming?'"

Eventually, a staff member and the manager came to look at the playground, she said. "(The manager) didn't seem concerned," said Kimberly. "He said it was the kids on Saturday who cut the net and duct-taped it. And he's saying this to me as he's duct-taping (the netting)."

"It's still his responsibility as a manager to inspect this (structure) and make sure (it's) safe. These structures are obviously

not being maintained."

The manager directed Metro Winnipeg to McDonald's public-relations department.

In an email statement from McDonald's, spokesperson Chris Stannell wrote: "At McDonald's Canada, the safety and security of our customers is a top priority. We conduct regular inspections and maintenance of our PlayPlaces to help ensure they're safe for our young customers."

Stannell did not return additional phone calls by Metro Winnipeg by press deadline, but McDonald's insurance company did contact the family and ask them what they wanted, said the girl's father, Ricky.

Ricky said his family is only interested in the safety of the playground.

"It looks like they're trying to buy off the problem. It sounds like it's nothing new to them."



► Kimberly Brenton, with her daughter, Marguerita, says the girl fell through netting at a McDonald's playground and was hurt.

Who's responsible?

► Despite calls to the City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba, Health Canada (Consumer Health and Safety branch), Public Health Agency of Canada, and Industry Canada (Office of Consumer Affairs branch), Metro Winnipeg could not discover what

level of government is responsible for inspecting private restaurant playgrounds to ensure their safety.

► A spokesperson for the City of Winnipeg, which is in charge of inspecting that McDonald's location for its food-handling, said the city does not inspect restaurant playgrounds after their initial construction.



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news



Toddlers are likely to experience a reaction to the first shot of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine, but serious reactions are rare. Scan code for story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at
metronews.ca



U.S. presidential hopeful Rick Perry's new campaign video has incited nearly 700 reply videos, many of which are parodies. Video at metronews.ca/video



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Don't rush to pay that photo-radar ticket: CTF

If you got a photo-radar ticket at the corner of Grant Avenue and Nathaniel Street recently, you might want to hold off on paying it.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) and Wise-Up Winnipeg say they are launching a class-action lawsuit because they believe the camera at that corner is dysfunctional.

"The CTF and Wise-Up Winnipeg have heard from over 100 Winnipeggers who have received tickets at this location since the end of October," the groups said in a release. "Each has questioned how they could be going 65-85 km/h after just having turned onto Grant Avenue westbound at Nathaniel Street."

The groups said the camera is on a parallel road and measures speeds from more than 45 feet away. This results in "unreliable measurements," they say.

"Photo-radar vehicles fix the angle of radar beam at 20 degrees, whereas this unique location 46 feet off the road would require adjustment to that operating system, which has been shown to produce unreliable speed reflections," said Todd Dube, a spokesman for Wise-Up Winnipeg.

Motorists who have received a ticket are urged to contact CTF spokesperson Colin Craig at ccriga@taxpayer.com or Dube at mediascene@mymts.net. ● ELISHA DACEY

Jets licence plates take off like ... rockets

► Eager seekers were in line before opening time ► Long-awaited plates went on sale at 304 Manitoba Public Insurance agents yesterday morning



SEAN LEDWICH
WINNIPEG@METRONews.ca

Screwdrivers were out in full force yesterday as fans scrambled to install Jets plates on their vehicles.

"I would guess about six to seven people were there waiting to come in," said Lee Huys, a supervisor at MIG Insurance on Portage Avenue.

MIG Insurance, like all agents in Winnipeg, were issued 50 plates. Agents in outlying areas of the city got 40, and rural agents only 10.

Huys said they were sold out by 11 a.m., but not before Jim Rutledge got his hands on a set.

"Over a month ago I saw it on the news and circled my calendar and here I am," he said as he replaced Bomber plates with his shiny new \$70 purchase.

John Jupin was not so lucky. "I guess I could try other Autopac agents," said Jupin, who tried and failed to get Jets season tickets. "I got to get the plate and support them that way at least."

About 100 reorder requests from agents were called in by 3 p.m., MPI spokesperson Brian Smiley said.

He said half of the 20,000 plates were sent to agents before the launch, and more could be made, depending on demand.



► Jim Rutledge puts his new Jets plates on his vehicle yesterday.

Step up to the plate — just don't steal it

Wild tales of Winnipeg Blue Bomber plates being stolen on a regular basis

turn out to be just that — wild tales.

A Freedom of Information request shows that of 8,100 Bomber plates issued, only 11 replacement requests were made to MPI as of Nov. 28. Of those, only three complainants said the plates were stolen.

Nevertheless, Bud

Bibeau, who works in the automotive department at Canadian Tire on St. James Street, said the store has been selling so many anti-theft bolts that a basket of them was placed next to each till.

"Everyone is scared somebody's going to steal their plate," Bibeau said.

● SEAN LEDWICH

New squad pecks away at 20,000 outstanding warrants

Manitoba's new warrant squad has arrested 150 fugitives since it was formed in September.

The six-officer unit — made up of Mounties and Winnipeg police — has executed 223 warrants on people, including those responsible for violent offences.

But the squad has a daunting task — there are some 20,000 outstanding warrants on the books in Manitoba.

Det.-Sgt. John O'Donovan, head of the unit, says officers have brought in armed-robbery suspects, fraudsters and at least one criminal who was in Cana-

da illegally.

Andrew Swan, the attorney general, says there are too many fugitives ignoring court orders and others who have been charged but have never appeared in court.

He says the squad is putting more criminals behind bars. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

News in brief

Witnesses mum on stabbing

CRIME. An investigation into an overnight stabbing has yielded little but unco-operative witnesses. Winnipeg police said a man, 26, was stabbed yesterday at about 9:30 p.m. on Smith Street. He is in stable condition in hospital. Po-

lice said witnesses are not answering questions. ● METRO

Murder count to be adjusted?

SUSPICIOUS DEATH. After initially reporting the death of Dominique McCann as a homicide, police said last week that her death is now regarded as "suspicious." Winnipeg has seen 37 confirmed homicides this year. ● METRO

It's official: We're out of Kyoto

► New climate deal to be signed in 2015, and would kick in after 2020

Canada is pulling out of the world's only binding climate treaty.

Environment Minister Peter Kent says Canada is withdrawing from the Kyoto Protocol.

"We are invoking Canada's legal right to formally withdraw from Kyoto," Kent said outside the House of Commons.

"This decision formalizes what we've said since 2006, that we will not implement the Kyoto Protocol."

Canada signed Kyoto in the late 1990s, but neither the current Conservative government nor their Liberal predecessors met targets. Kent says the move saves Canada \$14 billion in penalties for not achieving

"The Harper government has imposed a death sentence on many of the world's most vulnerable populations by pulling out of Kyoto."

MIKE HUDEMA,
GREENPEACE CANADA

its Kyoto targets.

Kent says he would not be surprised if other countries follow Canada in pulling out of Kyoto.

At the Durban talks, Canada joined Russia and Japan in refusing to sign on for a second round of Kyoto commitments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bear. In Vancouver



► An officer, holding a tranquilizer gun, watches a black bear perched on top of a garbage truck in downtown Vancouver yesterday.

JAMES GEMMILL/VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Cub to be set
free in the wild

It appears the black bear cub got trapped into the garbage canister in North Vancouver, and climbed on top of the bin when the vehicle came to a stop at a busy intersection in downtown Vancouver. The cub was tranquilized and taken to be released in the wild.

It's splitsville for 'gay penguin couple'

Buddy and Pedro, once one of Toronto's hottest "it" couples, have broken up amid pregnancy rumours and a budding relationship with what those on Team Pedro will undoubtedly call a femme fatale.

It only took Buddy 72

hours to bond with Farai, a female penguin he was matched with on Nov. 19, after being separated from Pedro. Handlers at the Toronto Zoo split up the pair out of concern the same-sex bond would hamper breeding efforts.

Pedro has yet to get



► African Penguins swim in their enclosure at the Toronto Zoo yesterday.

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

lucky, but zoo officials say it's not for a lack of trying.

"Pedro is very ready to go, per se, but his prospective mate Thandiwey is a little shy," Tom Mason, the zoo's curator of birds and invertebrates, said yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Web sensation

► The story of the birds took on a life of its own when the two African penguins, dubbed Toronto's "gay penguins," became an Internet sensation.

WinYourGifts.ca

Every day, from every Winners and HomeSense store, one lucky shopper could win back the value of their holiday purchase. December 1 to 24.



U.S. requests drone from Iran

President Barack Obama is pressing his request that Iran return the U.S. surveillance drone captured by the country's armed forces.

Obama said he would not comment "on intelligence matters that are classified." But he said during a White House news conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki that the U.S. wants the top-secret aircraft back.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



"We have asked for it back. We'll see how the Iranians respond."

BARACK OBAMA, U.S. PRESIDENT

Saudi Arabia executes woman

Saudi authorities have executed a woman convicted of practising magic and sorcery. The Saudi Interior Ministry says in a statement

the execution took place yesterday.

The London-based al-Hayat daily quoted Abdullah al-Mohsen, chief of religious police who arrested her, as saying she had tricked people into thinking she could treat illnesses, charging them \$800 per session. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Military medic in prison for sex assault on recruit

A Canadian medic who performed physical examinations of recruits at a southwestern Ontario military centre has been sentenced to nine months in prison for sexual assault and breach of trust.

A military judge sentenced James Wilks, 51, yesterday after he was found guilty in October of one count of sexual assault and four counts of breach of trust.

Phillip Millar, a lawyer for one of the victims, plans to launched civil suit on behalf of his client, who was 17 at time.

"A criminal trial just punishes, but it doesn't really compensate the vic-

DNA samples

As part of the sentence, Wilks will be signed into the sex-offender registry and must provide DNA samples for the national databank.

Wilks, who spent 27 years in the military, is no longer a member of the Canadian Forces and will serve out his term at a civilian prison.

tim," he said. "She had a dream of being in the military, her family has a rich tradition of being in the military, she was on a national program that was sup-

Syrians go on strike

- ▶ Protesters target ailing economy, regime supporters
- ▶ Government pushes ahead with municipal elections

Syrians closed their businesses and kept children home from school yesterday as part of a general strike, a powerful show of civil disobedience to pressure President Bashar al-Assad to end his nine-month-old crackdown on a popular uprising.

The open-ended strike takes direct aim at the country's already ailing economy. It is designed to erode al-Assad's main base of support — the new and vibrant merchant classes who have benefited in recent years as the president opened up the economy.

If the economy continues to collapse, al-Assad could find himself with few allies inside the country, where calls are growing by the day for him to

▶ This image from amateur video made available by the Ugarit News group yesterday purports to show security forces in Daraa, Syria.



step down. The authoritarian president is already struggling under international isolation and suffocating sanctions.

It is difficult to gauge the strength of the strike because the regime has banned most foreign journalists and prevented local reporters from moving

freely. But there were signs it was being widely observed in particular in centres of anti-government protest: the southern province of Daraa, the suburbs of the capital, Damascus, the northwestern region of Idlib and in the restive city of Homs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clashes continue

▶ Activists said a new round of clashes between Syrian troops and army defectors began on Sunday with a major battle in the south and spread to new areas yesterday, raising fears the conflict is spiralling toward civil war.

▶ The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says new clashes between soldiers and defectors were reported yesterday in Idlib in the north, and that fighting continued for a second day in southern Daraa province. Four members of the security forces were killed as a result of the clashes there, the Observatory said.

▶ At least 16 people were reported killed nationwide yesterday, most of them in Homs, according to various activist networks.

Fishermen. Arrested



▶ Chinese fishermen, centre, are led by South Korean police officers to Incheon Coast Guard office after their arrest at a port in Incheon, South Korea, yesterday.

AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chinese captain kills Korean officer

A South Korean coast guard officer was killed and another injured yesterday when they were stabbed by a Chinese captain whose boat was stopped for suspected illegal fishing in South Korean waters, officials said.

Trucker jailed for burning body

A former truck driver has been sentenced to six years for burning a woman's body after police say she suffocated as they celebrated their engagement with a meth and bondage sex party.

Mark Andrew Rice told police that he tied up

Natasha Carpenter in 2009 in Barstow, Calif., stuffed a gag in her mouth and covered it with tape. He passed out after and woke up to find her dead.

Then, police said, he drove from California to Mississippi with the corpse in his 18-wheel truck and

set fire to the truck, with the body inside.

He was sentenced yesterday for arson and desecration of a corpse. Two years was suspended for time served.

He hasn't been charged in the woman's death.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sandusky to face accusers

The sleepy country town of Bellefonte, Pa., better known for fly fishing than

courtroom drama, takes centre stage today for a face-to-face encounter between a disgraced Penn State coach and the young men who say he sexually assaulted them as children in showers and campus locker-rooms.

Jerry Sandusky, a

former assistant football coach at Penn State, will confront at least six accusers who claim that he violated their innocence and preyed on their weakness, using a charity that was inspired by a biblical parable.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Women in charge of gift buying in the family: Poll

- 80 per cent of households polled say women do the holiday shopping
- 43 per cent of women shop online, up from 34 per cent last year

HYOSUB SHIN/THE ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

► Women shop at a Toys R Us in Atlanta, Ga., on Nov. 24.



Santa is a woman.

That's according to BMO's 2011 Holiday Spending Outlook.

BMO says 80 per cent of households polled said the female head of family will do the majority of holiday shopping, and this year, more and more will do it online.

BMO's annual survey revealed a substantial increase in the number of women using the Internet to shop for gifts. The figure jumped to 43 per cent from 34 per cent last year. At 49 per cent, men are still somewhat more inclined than women to shop online — but the gap is narrowing.

The survey polled 1,508 Canadians and is consid-

ered accurate within plus or minus 2.5 per cent 19 times out of 20.

"There are a number of factors behind the increase in online shopping among Canadian women," said Su McVey, vice-president of BMO Bank of Montreal.

"The ability to quickly and easily research products and compare prices and even arrange for delivery at the click of a mouse or the touch of a key pad makes it a remarkably convenient approach for busy, budget-conscious and multi-tasking women," McVey said.

McVey noted that advances in technology such as Wi-Fi, smartphones and e-readers have helped spur

this growth.

"People of all ages are becoming much more comfortable with the technology and with the security behind online shopping," said McVey.

Regionally, married people polled in Atlantic Canada were more likely to say the female head of household does the majority of shopping — 87 per cent.

Online shoppers who don't want to pay priority shipping fees should make their online purchases by or before Dec. 15, BMO said.

That's the date when most retailers, especially those offering free delivery, require your order if you want a guarantee that Santa's packages will arrive by

Market moment

TSX



- 126.86
(11,907.89)

Dollar



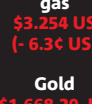
- \$0.71¢
(97.48¢ US)

Oil



- \$1.64 US
(97.77 US)

Natural gas



\$3.254 US
(- 6.3¢ US)

Gold

\$1,668.20 US
(- 48.6 US)

Dec. 24.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada can prosper amid massive global debt, says Carney

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Mark Carney

Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney says the advanced economies of the world are facing a massive challenge with debt, but Canada may be in a position to take advantage.

Speaking to a business group in Toronto, the central banker warned yesterday that a historic era of deleveraging — paying off debt — is being forced upon European countries and the U.S. The task is so large that Carney compares it to what occurred during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

"As a result of deleveraging, the global economy risks entering a prolonged period of deficient demand," Carney said. "If mishandled, it could lead to debt deflation and disorder-

ly defaults, potentially triggering large transfers of wealth and social unrest."

Carney said that Canada's relative virtue throughout this era of deleveraging puts the country in a "privileged position."

"Our strong position gives us a window of opportunity to make the adjustments needed to continue to prosper in a deleveraging world."

Carney added Canadian companies in particular must seize the moment, before it disappears.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WIRELESS SERVICES

Bell Mobility in hot seat over sports rights

The national telecommunications regulator is putting Bell Mobility in the penalty box for securing exclusive rights to hockey and football content for mobile devices.

The wireless phone company gave itself a significant competitive advantage by signing deals with the National Hockey League and National Football League,

the CRTC ruled yesterday. "Canadians shouldn't be forced to subscribe to a wireless service from a specific company to access their favourite content," Konrad von Finckenstein, chairman of the CRTC, said in a statement.

The decision followed a complaint from Telus Communications last January after it failed to secure the rights, first from the two sports leagues and later from Bell.

The NHL content includes games and video highlights, while the NFL content includes prime-time games and playoff games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Airline sued for charging the disabled

Disabled travellers who had to pay extra for seats on Air Canada could be in line for compensation as part of a class-action lawsuit authorized in Quebec.

A judge has approved a suit against Air Canada on

behalf of disabled Canadians who had to pay extra for seats over a three-year period from Dec. 5, 2005 to Dec. 5, 2008.

Quebec City law firm BGA Barristers & Solicitors LLP made the announce-

ment public yesterday.

The suit covers disabled individuals and also those with a functional disability related to obesity who faced extra charges for seats adapted to their condition.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

\$7M A policy that would exempt disabled passengers, with a medical certificate, from having to purchase an additional seat is estimated to cost Air Canada about \$7 million.



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GETTING ALL WRAPPED UP IN THE HOLIDAYS

SHE SAYS ...

JESSICA NAPIER
METRO



For couples who intend to spend the holidays together, 'tis the season for family feuds and hurt feelings. December is arguably the busiest time of the year, so when you move from being an "I" to a "we," this already-overscheduled month becomes even more complicated. With emotions running high, there can be all sorts of issues attached to deciding where and with whom to spend your yuletide time.

Do we commit to one set of parents? Divide our time between each other's family get-togethers? Try blending our families into one big (and potentially disastrous) celebration? Or do we split up and spend the holidays apart?

With all of the parental pressures and guilt-tripping the season brings, sometimes the most desirable course of action is to ditch everyone and spend December 25th alone together, eating Chinese food and watching a movie.

Married couples and those in long-term relationships can easily burn themselves out trying to fulfil calendars full of family commitments. Forget your holiday wish list, all you really want for Christmas is some extra time, or perhaps a couple of clones.

The unfortunate reality for adult children is that you will never really be able to please the numerous sets of parents, step-parents, in-laws and extended family members. In striving to meet everyone's expectations you'll stress yourself out and turn into

"...the turkey will never taste quite the same, and this other family's drunken uncle will seem terribly racist — on the other hand, your sloshed-by-noon-uncle is 'endearing.'"

an argumentative and unpleasant grinch.

But, hey, isn't that what the holidays are all about?

Deciding how you'll celebrate the season will ultimately depend on a variety of factors — religious beliefs, geography, work commitments, money — but if you want to spend the holidays with your significant other, you'll have to make some compromises.

It's more than likely that at some point in your life you'll have to spend the holidays with a family that isn't your own. Yes, unfamiliar familial surroundings can be difficult: the turkey will never taste quite the same, and this other family's drunken uncle will seem terribly racist — on the other hand, your sloshed-by-noon-uncle is "endearing." They'll want to watch A Christmas Story even though you ALWAYS watch It's a Wonderful Life, and you'll be irrationally devastated.

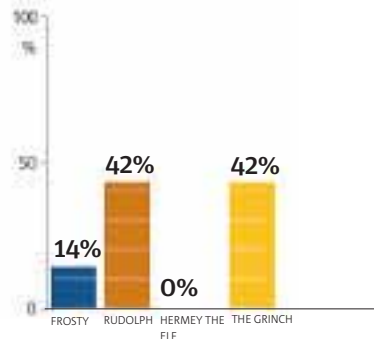
Since every family has their own unique festive customs, you'll have to adjust your own expectations if you want to get through the holidays without weeping into your eggnog. But in letting go of some of your established traditions, you'll give yourself the opportunity to start making some new ones. And remember, it's actually a nice thing when too many people want to spend time with you.

Read more of Jessica Napier's columns at metronews.ca/shesays



Register at
metropolitanpanel.ca
and take the quick poll

Who would win in a holiday cartoon showdown?



Local tweets



@jay caspiankang:

Sources say that Canada will trade Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and Whistler for Chris Paul. NBA demands Canada throw in Winnipeg. Staytuned

@ThatKevinSmith: Winnipeg! You were such a warm, welcoming audience that me and @JayMewes will Jet back to town whenever you need us. To fight crime. #PegBoy

@VBeePeg: Talking about

texting and driving, the guy was shaving! I really wanted to take a picture but it is not allowed while driving! #Winnipeg

@mybueno: Double pass. RT @bensigurdson: Winnipeg Jets license plates on sale today? Pass.

@danisway: We don't have a cool enough car for NHL plates...sorry to all the minivan NHL fans, but it'd just look lame.

@DudeBroSkylar: Article: "8 Stress Busters for Kids." Are you serious? Here's a stress buster: YOU'RE A KID. Go drink fruit punch and fall down or whatever.

Daily Zoom



Oh, hello, gecko — nice to meet you

New creature found in Mekong every 2 days!

This psychedelic gecko is one of the latest species discovered on Hon Khoai island, Mau province, in southern Vietnam.

The gecko is among 208 new species described last year by scientists in the Mekong River region of Southeast Asia, according to the WWF.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mekong River

The region spans Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the southwestern Chinese province of Yunnan. The report reveals an average of one new species discovered every two days.

28 reptiles were newly discovered in 2010, including an all-female lizard in Vietnam that reproduces via cloning.

Despite findings many species are threatened

The Mekong's wildlife population is under threat from rapid, unsustainable development and climate change. One tragic indicator of the decline of biodiversity is the recent extinction of the Javan rhino in Vietnam, which was recently confirmed by WWF.

● METRO

"Mekong governments have to stop thinking about biodiversity protection as a cost and recognize it as an investment to ensure long-term stability."

STUART CHAPMAN, CONSERVATION DIRECTOR OF WWF GREATER MEKONG



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Bird flies into action

► Director Brad Bird takes the leap from family films into the explosive world of live-action entertainment with *Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol* ► How he adapted his technique



STEVE
GOW

SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Brad Bird was not the most obvious candidate to take over the reins of the Tom Cruise multimillion-dollar *Mission: Impossible* film franchise.

While the filmmaker's Oscar-winning background stands on its own, it is mostly comprised of not only animated entertainment but specifically family-oriented favourites like *Ratatouille* and *The Incredibles*.

Now with *Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol* about to hit IMAX theatres this Friday (it opens on regular theatres next Wednesday), Brad Bird discussed leaping from kiddie cinema to explosive live-action entertainment.

What was the biggest challenge of going from choreographing animation to live-action?

If I had gone from hand-held animation, which my first film, *The Iron Giant*, was to live-action, it would've been a bigger leap but the last two films I did, *The Incredibles* and *Ratatouille*, were dimensional; there was CGI so you could move the camera through space and you could light it like you would any film so I got very comfortable with that.

So it actually felt fairly



► According to director Brad Bird, there were only two stunts in *Ghost Protocol* that Tom Cruise did not do.

natural to move to real people and things.

Certainly *The Incredibles* had its share of action too. What do you love about spy films?

They're sleek and they're exotic and fast and kind of explosive. They can go from very quiet suspense to all hell breaking loose just like that. This movie is definitely in that realm and that's one of the reasons that I wanted to do it.

I understand that Tom Cruise did all of his own stunts in this — true?

There's only two that he didn't do and in both of them the stuntman got hurt so he was very wise in not doing those two. But all of the ones on the Burj Khalifa (the tallest building in the world) where you see him climbing around, that's him. People are going to say, 'oh, that can't be him' but it's him.

Brad Bird talks *Mission: Impossible*

► Bird on tourists posting photos of Tom Cruise hanging from the side of Dubai's Burj Khalifa during filming:

"At first we were mad because the very first stuff (we shot went) online and we were like 'We can't show this stuff before the movie comes out'. But then we thought this proves that he's there, he's not a special effect."

► Bird on *Ghost Protocol* being the biggest of the *Mission: Impossible* franchise:

"I don't think it's the most expensive but it is the biggest. We had to be very clever with how we did things but it is the biggest and it's enormous — it was a challenge to do absolutely."

DVD Releases

Buy it 🌐🌐🌐🌐🌐 | Rent it 🌐🌐🌐🌐 | Borrow it 🌐🌐🌐 | Yawn 🌐🌐 | Don't bother 🌐

Rise of the Planet of the Apes

Genre: Action

Director: Rupert Wyatt

Stars: James Franco, Andy Serkis, Freido Pinto

🌐🌐🌐

The world needs another *Planet of the Apes* movie like a circus acrobat needs a banana peel. After five original films, two TV spin-offs and Tim Burton's failed 2001 "reimagining," the franchise has fleas. Yet *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* defies expectations (and fears), and two words explain why: Andy Serkis. The British magician be-



hind the digital sorcery of Gollum and King Kong gives his finest performance yet as Caesar, the brainy chimp who leads a

primate revolution against enslaving humans. Serkis commands the screen, combining his malleable features with the motion-capture technology he excels at. His Caesar conveys more emotion than any of the human characters. Director Rupert Wyatt's version, scripted by Rick Jaffa and Amanda Silver (who previously teamed for *The Relic*), pays tribute to the original series without being bound by it. Not surprisingly, that story's object lesson about how slavery is all in the eye of the beholder doesn't resonate as

strongly now as it did in the 1960s. ● PETER HOWELL

Kung Fu Panda 2

Genre: Animation

Director: Jennifer Yu Nelson

Stars: Jack Black, Angelina Jolie, Jackie Chan

🌐🌐½

Director Jennifer Yuh Nelson's animated comedy sequel manages to have its fortune cookie and eat it, too, since it delivers both more action and fireworks (literally), while at the same time filling in the tragic back story of Po, the accidental panda warrior voiced by Jack Black.

This is a franchise that already benefits from glorious design. *Panda 2*'s richly painted Chinese landscapes are a refreshing change from the usual sci-fi pursuits.

In the first movie, Po's task was to learn martial arts from Master Shifu (voiced by Dustin Hoffman). This time out, Po must put his new skills to work battling evil peacock Lord Shen (Gary Oldman). Before you can say peacock feathers, Po reteams with his *Furious Five* buddies to stop Shen.

● PETER HOWELL

2

scene

Box office



Meryl Streep may be considered one of the finest actresses around, yet she says she believed her career was over 20 years ago. Streep, now 62, tells *Vogue* magazine she was offered three different roles to play a witch after turning 40. She believed it meant women in her age group were "grotesque on some level," and told her husband "It's over." Streep graces the January cover of *Vogue* magazine for the first time and jokes in the magazine she's the "oldest person" to do so. Next, she plays the former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the new film *Iron Lady*. She'll portray Thatcher from age 49 to 85. The film opens January 13. The January issue of *Vogue* goes on sale Dec. 20.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Clooney's Descendants named best film by LA critics; Fassbender wins best-actor prize

Hulk Hogan is not a homosexual, OK?

► Wrestler grappling with allegations from ex-wife ► Claims they are untrue

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



Hulk Hogan, who filed a defamation suit against ex-wife Linda Bollea, says he's just trying to defend his reputation.

"After the four-year crazy divorce I thought I'd heard everything I could hear in the courtroom," the wrestling star tells *Us Weekly*.

"Then all of a sudden she says I abused her, that I was



► Hulk Hogan

violent. She told everybody that I was a homosexual."

Hogan adds that his real problem with Bollea's accu-

sations is that they aren't accurate.

"If any of that was true, I would admit it, and (if) I

was a homosexual I would embrace it," he says.

"If you're going to say I'm something that I'm not to try to ruin my career and my livelihood, I have to answer her back."

Look, Linda. Just because at one point in his life, your ex-husband loved Spandex, tan skin, Fu Manchu, rippling muscles, had a huge boa scarf collection, ripped his shirt off at the drop of a hat and pinned sweaty men to the ground for a living, does not mean he was in the closet while you were married.

If it were someone else's husband, however, I'd be a tad worried.

ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

Celebrity tweets



Nearly the end of another gruelling week of talking about myself. It's a good job that I'm so interesting...



@JohnCleese

@juliebenz

whenever someone says "we're only giving gifts to the kids this holiday season" my inner child screams "NO! I want presents too!!"



@russellcrowe



90 sweaty minutes in the gym. Some days you love it, some you hate it. Today was all love.

@SarahKSilverman



My dog has to think the elevator's a time machine, right? There's no other possible explanation.

A theft-filled weekend for Lindsay Lohan

Lindsay Lohan had a drama-filled weekend, and not just because of her leaked *Playboy* spread.

While partying in Hawaii, the troubled starlet reportedly had her purse stolen, according to TMZ.

The \$5,000 Chanel handbag, which was snatched from a parked car, was said to contain \$10,000 in cash.

The purse was later returned, minus the cash. Lohan was reportedly fretting another probation violation, as her passport and court documents allowing her

to travel were also in the purse, but were returned safely.

Which leads us to a very pressing, unrelated question: Do drug dealers accept traveller's checks?

● METRO



Lindsay Lohan

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Kutcher's resolutions are set

Ashton Kutcher is looking to get a jump on his New Year's resolutions, and given the year he's had it's not such a surprise.

"I'm gonna do my resolution in December this year," he says in a Warner Bros. Studio interview.

"I'm resolving for December so that when I come to January, and everybody else is having to go through the grind, I'm already ahead of it. I've already done it. It's like taking the PSATs. I'm just trying to stay ahead of the curve. There is a curve."

● METRO



► Ashton Kutcher



scan and save
\$5 at any hmv

From a writer of "The Office"...

Originals

*An original webseries
completely lacking any originality*



In today's episode... "The Situation"

As the cast gets a chance to strut their stuff New Jersey style, Jason attempts to finally connect with Carina. The question is will there be sparks or a nasty shock?

New episodes post every Tuesday and Thursday. Watch at www.facebook.com/OriginalsTheSeries

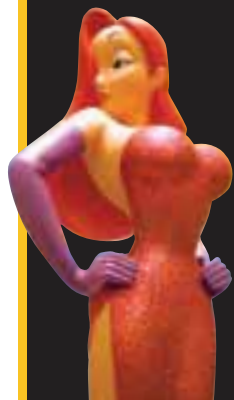


3 life

Trends

Twenty-two-year-old Russian Kristina Rei thought her 'thin' lips made her unpretty, so she decided to spend \$5,000 (around 100 injections) in order to have the pillow lips of cartoon character Jessica Rabbit. The nail technician is admitting she has an addiction, but this hasn't put her off considering another round of the \$55, 'painful' injections.

● METRO



Born smaller than soda cans, tiniest babies are growing up healthy

Babies are skeptics

► New study shows that even infants can detect when you're acting shady ► They'll start to tune you out ► So remember: just because they're little, doesn't mean they aren't on to you



CELIA MILNE
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

You can't trick babies. They'll distrust you.

Researchers in psychology at Concordia University in Montreal have found that infants just over a year old can already get a bead on who is reliable and who is unreliable. The babies will quickly start ignoring cues from those who are unreliable.

"Even babies detect when someone's behaviour is not conventional," says Diane Poulin-Dubois, a professor of psychology at Concordia University. "It seems that they then turn off the 'learning switch' that typically makes them learn from that person."

Learning

Babies learn from older humans. But would they copy a robot?

► **Robots** A team of researchers from the University of Washington found babies will imitate a robot if they have previously seen the robot playing with someone. Turns out, it's more important to babies that robots are sociable than that they look human.



► Don't confuse their cuteness — babies can tell when your actions don't add up.

Poulin-Dubois and colleagues conducted a study with 60 babies between 13 and 16 months of age.

The wee ones were divided into two groups — those with a reliable adult and those with an unreliable adult — and shown tasks they could mimic. In the first task, testers looked inside a container and expressed excitement

and delight before handing the container to the baby.

In the reliable group, there was a toy inside. In the unreliable group, the container was empty. This was repeated several times.

For the second task, the same adult showed the babies a touch-on light. The tester placed it on a desk

and switched it on by leaning forward and using the forehead.

This was repeated three times before passing the light to the infant. Infants who had been tricked in the first experiment were far less likely to imitate the adult. Over two attempts, 34 per cent of infants in the unreliable condition mimicked the

adult, versus 61 per cent of infants in the reliable condition.

"Babies are setting down the groundwork for a lifelong skill — remaining vigilant about who is an expert and who is not," says Poulin-Dubois.

The study was published in the journal *Infant Behaviour and Development*.

Best Health Minute



BONNIE MUNDAY,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,
BEST HEALTH
MAGAZINE

Eat, Think and Be Merry

In the December issue of *Best Health*, our registered dietitian columnist Sue Mah put together some excellent tips for navigating the holiday events and their appetizer trays and buffet tables. A big part of it, she says, is eating mindfully — that is, really taking time to focus on what you eat, and

more importantly, how you eat. Here are a few ways.

1. Do a walkabout

Before you even put a single piece of food on your plate, take a stroll around the buffet table and check out all of the options. Mentally classify them as 'must try' or 'can do without them today.' On your plate, put a few bites of a small portion of the 'must try' foods — making sure there are two types of vegetables — plus one 'must

try' dessert.

2. Chat

After your first plate of food, you may feel like going back for seconds. Instead, sit back and take a planned break to catch up with friends. It takes about 20 minutes for your stomach to tell your brain you're full. After 20 minutes, ask yourself if you're really still hungry.

3. Keep your distance

Avoid standing near the party nibbles unless you

have incredible willpower. When food is easily within reach, chances are you'll pick up a bite or two, or three. Let's say that two hors-d'oeuvres have 100 calories. By the time you've eaten a few, you have had the equivalent of a small meal.

Get 5 more tips in the December issue of *Best Health*, on newsstands now. And find our roundup of actual-size party snacks, along with their calories and fat grams. It may just help

you get through party season with no added pounds. For example, can you guess what's in one of those mini quiches?

- A. 50 calories and 1 gram of fat.
- B. 65 calories and 3 grams of fat.
- C. 80 calories and 6 grams of fat.

The answer is C. Those little party snacks can really add up.

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► This bookstore serves as a coffee shop, organic vegan grocery store & café offering a delicious variety of items

PAY CHEN



► Curry Don't Worry Roti.

LUNCH RUSH

PAY CHEN
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA



The sign says, Mondragon Bookstore and Coffeehouse

but what it's missing in that sign are the words Fantastic Vegan Food.

Some of the tastiest grub comes out of this weathered bookstore/coffee shop/organic grocery store/vegan café.

Most of the menu items contain organic ingredi-

ents and the coffee and teas are also organic. The food is fresh, healthy and you feel good eating it.

The Curry Don't Worry Roti (\$7.95) mixes chunks of seasonal vegetables and perfect spices wrapped in a wheat and chickpea roti shell. I could eat it every day.

The BLT (\$5.99) tastes nothing like an actual BLT (no faux bacon) but contains delicious slices of to-fu marinated in maple syrup, tamari and hickory smoke. It is, however, just as messy to eat as the real thing. Lettuce and tomato make every sandwich slip-

pery.

A mouth-watering selection of baked goods will taunt you at the counter. Look for daily specials on the board and enjoy.

► Mondragon Bookstore & Coffeehouse

91 Albert St.
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mondragon.ca
Reservations: No
Licensed: Yes
Social lunch: Yes
Quick solo lunch: Yes
Client negotiation: No
Price range: \$1.99 - \$10.99
Rating: 4 out of 5

Chocolate Peanut Butter Covered Apples

Preparation:

1 In a small saucepan over medium-low, heat cream and peanut butter until bubbling. Remove pan from heat and add chocolate bits. Stir until completely smooth. Set aside to cool for 10 minutes.

2 From bottom, push a pop stick up into core of each apple. The stick should go deep enough to be sturdy, but leave enough ex-

posed to serve as a handle.

3 Line a baking sheet with waxed paper. Place peanuts in bowls, if using.

4 One at a time, using sticks as handles, dip apples in chocolate mixture. Use a spoon to scoop up extra chocolate and pour over apples to help coat sides. Allow extra chocolate to drip back into pan. Dip coated apples into nuts. Stand ap-

ples, stick in air, on lined baking sheet. Refrigerate until firm.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ingredients:

- 90 ml (3 oz) heavy cream
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) creamy peanut butter
- 175 g (6 oz) bittersweet chocolate bits
- 4 apples (any variety)
- 4 wooden pop sticks
- Chopped salted peanuts (optional)

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Top 5 most shoplifted items of the holiday season

The time of year sees plenty of merchandise fly off the shelves, whether it's paid for or not.

Scores of shoppers will pass through the doors of countless retailers, but one in 11 of them will walk out for something they swiped with a five-finger discount, according to the National Association of Shoplifting Prevention in the U.S.

Ad Week spoke to security professionals who named some of the top items for shoplifters.

1. Filet mignon: Luxury meat theft is up by 21 per cent, making grocery stores and markets the most common setting for shoplifting.

2. Jameson: Shockingly, people who love to steal also



▶ Nothing beats the thrill of stuffing cold, raw meat down your pants.

love to drink. Pricey liquor makes up about 2.9 per cent of stolen merchandise.

3. Electric tools: Shoplifters, though a sneaky breed, are also quite handy. DIY items are the third most popular category for thieves — think electric toothbrushes and power tools.

4. iPhone4: No surprise here — digital gadgets, in general, fly right off the shelves and right into pockets. Apple products are especially popular among shoplifters.

5. Gillette Mach 4 Razor blades Shoplifters have discerning taste when it comes to a smooth, close shave.

Not just any razor blade will do.

● METRO NEW YORK

Revel in small pleasures

ON MONEY

ALISON GRIFFITHS
MONEY@METRONEWS.CA



Taking a break, as I've just done for the past two weeks, is one of the hardest things about being a freelance writer and broadcaster. Anyone who is self-employed will nod in agreement.

For one thing, it's hard to turn down work — you don't know when the next job will come along or if a regular gig suddenly disappears.

The problem with never turning down work is that you rarely stop to smell the roses. While many of us in this situation love what we do, work should give us the opportunity to enjoy our lives.

Whether it's roses that

excite you, sports, crafts or travel, our other interests are what feed our souls and keep us balanced in troubled times.

Recently, I've been stewing over the way a publication I've worked with for years has treated me. I wanted to rage and complain. Instead, I went for a run in the woods with my dogs and gloried in their enthusiasm. I'm still upset but my non-work interests helped ameliorate the blow.

After earning your paycheck, if you can do something that makes you happy or even just content, then the work has been worthwhile.

While I was off I took a friend to a rehab session after his knee replacement. I saved him a couple of hours travel time and had a nice visit. And I had a long phone conversation with another old friend whose uncle had recently died and she was trying to sort out



▶ Alison's money rule: Earning money is important but not if you don't enjoy life outside work.

his estate. The best part was enjoying the moment — seizing it in fact.

I also tried to revel in life's mundane routines, which often pass in a blur but can actually be pleasurable if you focus on them.

I cleared out some clutter, listened to a neighbour complain about his health problems, raked some leaves and hung up bungee cords that were in a tangled pile. Though I'm sorry to say the enjoyable routine

magic didn't work with vacuuming.

It is the season of resolutions but rather than come up with things you should do or do better, direct your thoughts to your work and non-work life. Make the most out of each as best you can and feel good about the small things.

ALISON GRIFFITHS IS THE AUTHOR OF THE UPCOMING BOOK COUNT ON YOURSELF: TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY. REACH HER AT ALISONGRIFFITHS.CA OR GRIFFITHS.ALISON@GMAIL.COM.

THE DRUNK-DRIVING ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

As a hostess, how do I deal with drinking and driving for my guests at my Christmas party?
Nervous hostess

Dear Nervous Hostess,
Good on you for asking the important question! I don't need to tell readers the importance of this subject. I personally think it is just as delicate a subject no matter who this concerns.

CHARLES THE BUTLER



ASKCHARLES
THEBUTLER@
METRONEWS.CA

FOR MORE, VISIT
CHARLES
MACPHERSON.COM

As a butler I have had to deal with this on several

occasions.

Firstly, try to be prepared ahead of time. Suggest a designated driver at your event (this person can drive numerous guests home as needed) and/or have some cash on hand to send someone home by taxi if required.

After doing some research, the auto insurance website progressive.com had some great sugges-

tions:

1. If the person is a close friend, try to use a soft, calm approach at first. Suggest that he's had too much to drink and it would be better to let someone else drive or to take a cab.

2. Be calm.

3. Try to make it sound like you are doing them a favour.

4. If the person is some-

body you don't know well, speak to his friends and have them make an attempt to persuade him to hand over the keys. Usually, he will listen.

5. If the person is a good friend, spouse or significant other, tell him that if he insists on driving, you are not going with him. Tell him that you will call someone else for a ride, take a cab or walk.

6. Locate the person's keys while he is preoccupied and take them away.

Most likely, he will think he's lost his keys and will be forced to find another mode of transportation.

If possible, avoid embarrassing the person or being confrontational.

HAVE A QUESTION? EMAIL CHARLES AT ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA.



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► Jets goalie Ondrej Pavelec, from left, deflects a shot as Red Wings forward Jiri Hudler battles with Winnipeg defenceman Zach Bogosian in Detroit on Saturday.



CARLOS OSORIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Moving past the Motor City

- Winnipeg squad hopes to bounce back vs. league-leading Wild after blowout loss in Detroit
- 'We know that we've played good teams and won so we have to find a way to do it,' Noel says

Winnipeg Jets coach Claude Noel isn't beating himself or his team up over their 7-1 drubbing in Detroit Saturday.

But he isn't watching any replays of the last two periods of the game either. "Sometimes, when you're younger, you forget that you've done so well," he said after yesterday's practice at the MTS Centre.

Before hitting Detroit, the Jets — one of the youngest teams in the NHL — had won eight of their last 10 games and lost only one in regulation time.



JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

"We need to get back to winning and that will be our challenge (tonight)," Noel said.

The problem is they will have to beat the Minnesota Wild, currently the top team in the NHL. But the Jets are a solid 9-4-0 at the MTS Centre.

While Winnipeg won't see much of the Wild in

"We just made too many mistakes against a team like that ... they just played a smarter, overall better game than us."

JETS FORWARD BRYAN LITTLE ON SATURDAY'S 7-1 LOSS TO THE RED WINGS

2011-'12, next season they'll be in the same conference.

"Detroit's going to be in our conference too," said Bryan Little, who scored Winnipeg's only goal in the Detroit blowout.

"It's going to be tough next year so we've got to learn how to play against these teams."

Scoring first has been one of the things the Jets have relied on as they turned around a slow start to climb into 10th place in the Eastern Conference.

Noel says he reviewed the first period of their loss to Detroit and liked some of what he saw. Little scored his 10th goal of the season just 35 seconds in to

get things started.

The Wings had a 2-1 lead after one period and scored three in the second to put the game out of reach.

Captain Andrew Ladd — at 26, a veteran on the Jets — said he's over the loss and focused on the Wild.

"They play as a group of five, they defend as a group of five, and to beat a team like that you've got to be skating, you've got to be working," he said, after dodging a shaving cream pie that teammates sent his way to mark his birthday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jets preview

Minnesota at Winnipeg
7:30 p.m.
TV: TSN-Jets



Winnipeg (13-12-4) hosts the league-leading Wild (20-7-3) after seeing its four-game winning streak snapped in a 7-1 loss to Detroit on Saturday. Minnesota has won seven in a row, including the first four games of a five-game road trip. Matt Hackett has allowed just two goals on 78 shots in his first two NHL games and will continue to earn time with the Wild until Josh Harding (upper-body) returns. Niklas Backstrom (groin) returned to stop 35 shots in a 4-1 win over Phoenix on Saturday.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crosby's comeback on hold

Sidney Crosby is back on the shelf — his comeback stalled indefinitely with concussion-like symptoms. "Frustrating, I don't think that even describes it," Crosby told reporters.

Still the Pittsburgh Penguins star looked for positives yesterday, saying he is feeling "much, much better" than he did after being levelled by big hits in successive games Jan. 1 and Jan. 5 that triggered his 10-month absence from the game. He also said he felt worse only a few weeks before the Penguins training camp in mid-September.

"(Crosby's) been away for so long, and was so happy to be playing with us again. It's been crazy."

GOALIE MARC-ANDRE FLEURY

"It's much different than previously going through that stuff," Crosby said. "I'm way better off than I was dealing with this stuff 10 months ago or whatever it was."

Still it's a setback for the NHL's biggest star, only three weeks removed from a spectacular comeback.

"I just figured it was better to be cautious here and not take any chances. That's kind of where I'm at right now," Crosby said.

Crosby's comeback appeared to be a success until he experienced headaches following a 3-1 loss to Boston on Dec. 5.

After sitting out a pair of road games as a precaution, Crosby was expected to return to practice yesterday.

Instead he sat out and told reporters that he won't practise or play until he is symptom-free. He wouldn't guess when that might be.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

Jays trade for outfielder

BASEBALL. The Toronto Blue Jays acquired outfielder Ben Francisco from the Philadelphia Phillies yesterday in exchange for left-handed pitcher Frank Gailey.

Francisco, 30, had a .244 average with six homers and 34 RBIs in 100 games for the Phillies this past season. Over parts of five major-league seasons with Cleveland and Philadel-

phia, Francisco has a .260 average with 45 home runs and 174 RBIs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kings dump their coach

HOCKEY. The Los Angeles Kings fired coach Terry Murray yesterday after a slow start to a season of high expectations.

Murray was replaced by assistant coach John Stevens, who will be the Kings' interim head coach when they open a four-game road trip tonight in Boston. Los Angeles has lost four straight games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Scan code for more sports.

Argonauts swing deal for Ray

► Toronto sends Jyles, kicker, second-overall pick to Edmonton for QB ► 32-year-old has won two Grey Cups

Ricky Ray is heading East.

The Toronto Argonauts acquired the veteran quarterback from the Edmonton Eskimos for quarterback Steven Jyles, kicker Grant Shaw and the second-overall selection in the 2012 CFL Canadian College Draft.

"Our mission since 2010 has been to build the Argos into a consistent and credible football team," Argos general manager Jim Barker said in a statement. "This trade moves that process along and demonstrates our commitment to re-establishing Argos football in this city. While we gave up a lot, we felt it was important to be aggressive and go after what we needed."

"This trade is an investment by our organization

6

Number of seasons in which Ricky Ray has thrown for at least 4,500 yards.

in the future of the Double Blue and in its new on-field leader, Ricky Ray."

Edmonton GM Eric Tillman said he didn't enter the off-season intent on trading Ray. However, he added the Argos' dogged pursuit of the veteran quarterback resulted in a deal that Tillman believes makes the Eskimos younger and improves their Canadian content.

"They were very aggressive," Tillman said. "We were not looking to trade Ricky and were very reluctant to do so."



► Ricky Ray has been traded to Toronto.

But Jyles won't be handed the Eskimos starting job. Tillman said Jyles will have to compete in train-

ing camp for the No. 1 position against veteran Kerry Joseph and youngsters Matt Nichols and Eric

Ward.

The Argos will officially introduce their newest addition tomorrow morning

in Toronto.

The 32-year-old Ray had spent his entire nine-year CFL career with Edmonton, leading the Eskimos to two Grey Cup championships over that span.

"I would like to thank the Edmonton Eskimos and their fans for nine years of good memories and for giving me the opportunity to play for such a good organization and win a couple of championships," Ray said. "While it's tough to leave all the people who have helped me in my career, I'm excited to move forward, take the next step in my career and come to Toronto, an organization with a rich history and tradition where we will have another chance to win a Grey Cup." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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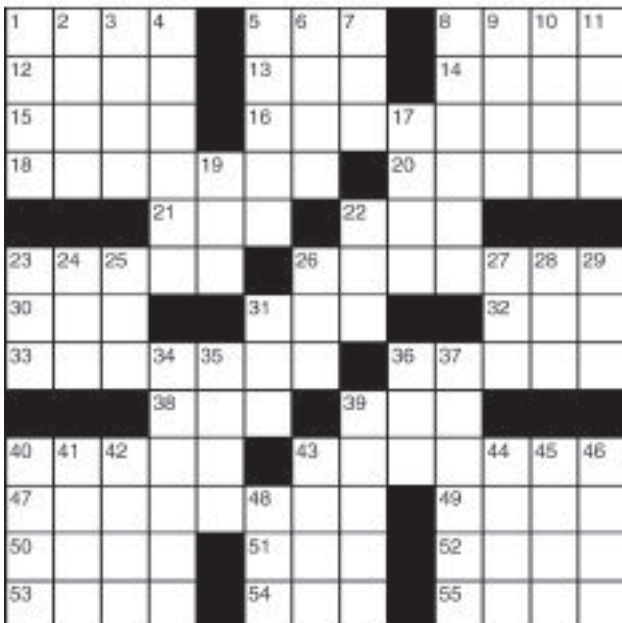
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Crossword

Across

1 Double agent
5 Sis' sib
8 Havana's country
12 Pre-diploma hurdle
13 Scarlet
14 October birthstone
15 Withered
16 Firewood supports
18 Humanlike robot
20 Apartment-complex unit
21 Pistol
22 Half-score
23 Rags-to-riches author
26 Moderately slow in music
30 Arthur or Lillie
31 Pismire
32 Physicist Georg
33 Pyrenees principal-ity
36 Refuges
38 Chinese cook's vessel
39 Matterhorn, e.g.
40 Prince William's mother
43 Massachusetts city
47 Pamela or Loni
49 Strong wind
50 Use a teaspoon
51 Blackbird
52 Gaelic
53 Red — (candy)
54 Tiny
55 Kept watch on
Down
1 Small plateau
2 Yoked team
3 Fat
4 Come out



5 Gray matter
6 Tear
7 Peculiar
8 Ring around the sun
9 "Once — a time"
10 Musical combo
11 As well
17 On the rocks
19 "— Town"
22 Explosive letters
23 Lawyers' org.
24 Cariou of Broadway
25 Wander about
26 Literary

collection
27 Ph. bk. info
28 Winnie — Pooh
29 Type measures
31 Noah's boat
34 Deed holders
35 Bellow
36 On in years
37 Farthest point in an orbit
39 "Tomorrow" tyke
40 Morse morsel
41 Grooving on
42 Mine entrance
43 Top-notch
44 Change

45 Otherwise
46 Saxophone need
48 Witnessed

► Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ►



Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

To Peaches

Hello — the Peaches I have written to (in vain it seems) probably wouldn't address as "Howdie". Also, he would likely not contact me at all, as is angry & it's complicated. Peaches, AKA Petal. I'm done trying anyway. Sorry for any confusion.

FROM ME

Oi!

Jeez you're cute! I honestly can't say that enough times. Someday I'll be the one planting kisses on those adorable cheeks.

FROM CAPTAIN

Matty

Where have you been? I haven't seen you for 3 days now. I miss seeing your face. I hope to see you tomorrow.

FROM R

A look at the weather

TODAY Min -15° Max -7°
WEDNESDAY Min -8° Max -4°
THURSDAY Min -16° Max -14°



Jenna Khan, Weather Specialist

"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." WEEKDAYS 6 A.M.



Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 The truth must be told and you are the one who must do the telling.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Your attitude will harden today and you will refuse to make the changes that others demand.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Spell out what it is you are planning to do over the next few days and make sure everyone knows that you are serious about your ambitions.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Let certain people know that you will no longer do their bidding.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23 You're allowed to change your mind, and you're allowed to change your ambitions too.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22 It will be easier for you to explain what you have been up to in recent weeks.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You will find it ridiculously easy to get people to do what you desire today.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The best way to win others round to your big idea is to come up with so many facts and figures that they simply cannot deny that you know

what you are talking about.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 It's time to get serious about something you have been putting off for weeks or months.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Don't let worries and fears get the better of you.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 If you cannot handle something alone, ask for assistance.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. You will find it quite easy to get your message across to employers and other important people today.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest



"I told you rocket skis were a good idea."

BKNXX



WIN! You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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